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Things That Rise in the Morning

by

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A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Printmaking

Art and Design

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Edmonton, Alberta

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Things That Rise in the Morning

Carl Jung described the status of the contemporary human being in conflict when he wrote: "Skepticism and scientific conviction exist in him side by side with old-fashioned prejudices, outdated habits of thought and feeling, obstinate misinterpretations, and blind ignorance" (86). This jumble of ideas and perspectives is a result of a movement toward a society that has become more and more dependent on self interest. This movement, which has its advantages, has left the human psyche in a state of chaotic disarray, which causes a rift between the two elements that make up the human psyche, the conscious and the unconscious. The fracture between these two psychological elements has left many of us at a loss, as we navigate through our lives searching for unity and meaning.


To explore these concerns I have been creating enigmatic narratives through the media of printmaking, drawing and animation. Throughout human history, narrative has been used in many ways as a way of investigating concepts and phenomena beyond simple explanation. Mythology, storytelling and folklore are a few examples of the ways in which people have traditionally used narrative to explore the relationship between the conscious and the unconscious. In my work I draw on this tradition to create personal narratives. My choice of the narrative structure comes from my belief that storytelling can be used as a vehicle for the exploration of the inherent universals of existence that make up human truths.

These narratives rely on a non-specific, malleable, evolving symbolic language and draw on iconography and mark making techniques from a wide array of graphic resources, ranging from Albrecht Dürer to Scrooge McDuck. I single out symbols and drawing styles from one era of graphic arts and combine them with other eras in order to create a mischievous tension essential to my work.

Due to my use of a narrative structure and a repeatable symbolic language, I feel that my work can best be described as a form of allegory. Unlike the traditional use of allegory my symbols do not have a one to one translation; it is not like looking at a key to a map. By disrupting this traditional formula for allegory I am rejecting the unity of language and am harboring an inherent disjunction within the work. This disjunction allows these narratives to be allegorical representations for the internal conflict within the human psyche.

My work, which examines the shortcomings, fears, needs and passions that characterize the human species, is an investigation into the disorderly state of our psyches. This condition can be associated with the fact that we overly rely on our conscious minds while we have ignored the unconscious. As Carl Jung has said: "Nobody can afford to look round and wait for somebody else to do what he is loath to do himself. But since nobody seems to know what to do, it might be worth while for each of us to ask himself whether by any chance his or her unconscious may know something that will help us" (91-92).

Matt Arrigo, 2011



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<https://archive.org/details/Arrigo2011>

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Kearney, Richard. *On Stories*. London: Routledge, 2002. Print.

Taylor, Charles. *The Malaise of Modernity*. Concord, Ont.: Anansi., 1991. Print.

Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2011 Master of Fine Arts (Printmaking), The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 2008 Bachelor of Fine Arts (Printmaking) with Distinction, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, Ca. USA

Solo Exhibitions

- 2011 Things That Rise in the Morning, FAB Gallery, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Group Shows

- 2011 New Prints 2011/Summer, International Print Center New York, New York, New York, USA
- The Boston Printmaker's North American Print Biennial, Danforth Museum, Boston, Mass., USA
- 2010 Inbetween Layers, Green Street Printmaking and Books Gallery, Lamar Dodd School of Art, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA
- 2009 Under the Impression [Et Al]: An Exhibition of print Portfolios by Art and Design Staff and Students, FAB Gallery, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Germinations: ,Recent Works by MFA and MDES Students at the University of Alberta, FAB Gallery, Edmonton Alberta, Canada
- Varsolsa, SNAP Gallery, Edmonton Alberta, Canada
- 2008 Blurring Boundaries ,The Wave Exhibition, University Alberta (Canada), Ewha University (Korea),Cardiff School of Art & Design (Wales)

Teaching

- 2011 Primary Instructor, Beginning Drawing, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Primary Instructor, Visual Fundamentals, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Primary Instructor, Beginning Drawing, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

- 2010 Primary Instructor, Visual Fundamentals, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Primary Instructor, Beginning Silkscreen, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 2009 Primary Instructor, Visual Fundamentals, The University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Teaching Assistant, Word and Image, The University of Alberta, Professor Sean Caulfield, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Teaching Assistant, Visual Fundamentals, The University of Alberta, Professor Daniela Schluter, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- 2008 Teaching Assistant, Beginning Relief and Intaglio, The University of Alberta, Professor Michele Lavoie, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
- Teaching Assistant, Beginning Printmaking, Sonoma State University, Kurt Kemp, Rohnert Park, Ca., USA
- Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Drawing, Sonoma State University, Professor Nathan Haenlein, Rohnert Park, Ca., USA
- 2007 Teaching Assistant, Beginning Printmaking, Sonoma State, University Professor Kurt Kemp, Rohnert Park, Ca., USA

Matthew Arrigo
DVD Title List

Disc #1

File Name: arrigo.01.tif
Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#1
Date: 2010-2011
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Dimensions: 17 7/8 x 23 7/8

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Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#2
Date: 2010-2011
Materials: Etching with relief roll
Dimensions: 17 3/4 x 23 3/4

File Name: arrigo.03.tif
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Date: 2010-2011
Materials: Etching with relief roll
Dimensions: 23 7/8 x 17 7/8

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Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#4
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Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#5
Date: 2010-2011
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Dimensions: 23 7/8 x 17 7/8

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Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#6
Date: 2010-2011
Materials: Etching with relief roll
Dimensions: 23 11/16 x 17 7/8

File Name: arrigo.07.tif
Title: Things That Rise in the Morning#7
Date: 2010-2011
Materials: Etching with relief roll
Dimensions: 14 7/8 x 25 15/16

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Date: 2011
Materials: N/A
Dimensions: N/A

File Name: arrigo.14.tif
Title: Installation Shot #2
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Dimensions: N/A















